



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Director of Personnel

At its meeting held May 25, 2004, the Board took the following action:

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Supervisor Knabe made the following statement:

“Workers’ Compensation costs will have soared to more than \$398 million for Fiscal Year 2004-2005, a 17.3% increase over Fiscal Year 2003-2004. The County of Los Angeles must do everything in its power to discourage and punish false claims. Workers’ Compensation is a benefit put in place to protect employees and their families should injury prevent an employee from working. A large part of the cost increase is the growing cost of medical care. Another is the alarming increase in fraud committed by employees against the employer. Fraud cheats honest County employees with legitimate injuries, as well as the taxpayer who is paying the bill.

“Working for the County is a privilege, not an entitlement. Every County employee is ultimately accountable to the taxpayers who trust us with their precious tax dollars to provide them with important services. Persons who have been convicted of filing fraudulent Workers’ Compensation claims have forfeited the privilege of employment with the County of Los Angeles. Local, State, or Federal law does not prohibit or require the disqualification of applicants for employment with a public entity because of a prior fraud conviction. It is clear that prior Workers’ Compensation fraud-related conviction directly impacts an applicant’s ability to be trusted with a job funded by the taxpayers and, therefore, should be grounds for disqualification.

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“Recently, the City of Los Angeles approved a motion requesting their City Attorney to prepare an ordinance requiring that all applicants for employment who have been convicted of Workers’ Compensation fraud be automatically disqualified from employment and present the Ordinance to their Personnel Committee for discussion. The Personnel Committee has reviewed and approved the Ordinance and it is now up for consideration by the Mayor and City Council.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Molina, unanimously carried (Supervisor Yaroslavsky being absent), County Counsel, the Director of Personnel, and the Chief Administrative Officer's Office of Risk Management were instructed to draft an ordinance similar to the City of Los Angeles’ requiring that all applicants for employment who have been convicted of Workers’ Compensation fraud be automatically disqualified from employment with the County of Los Angeles; and report back to the Board within 60 days.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor

County Risk Manager, Chief Administrative Office